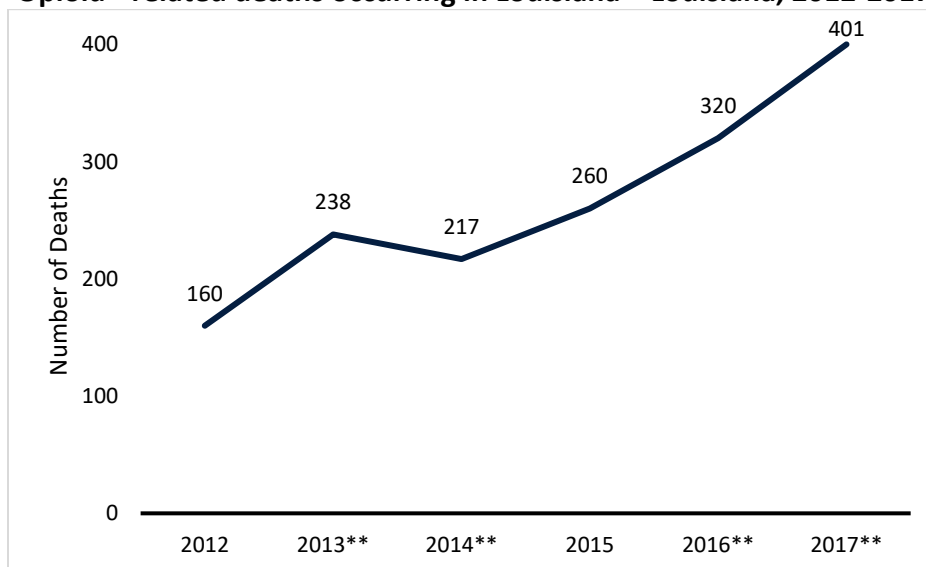


OPIOID-RELATED DEATHS IN LOUISIANA Updated June, 2018

All deaths occurring in Louisiana are reported to the Office of the State Registrar and Vital Records. Parish coroners investigate any deaths where drugs were involved to determine cause of death. Accurately counting overdose deaths due to a specific drug is a challenge due to the nature of drug overdoses, the use of multiple drugs at one time, and differences in cause of death determination across jurisdictions.

The deaths in this fact sheet represent opioid poisoning deaths and opioid-involved deaths (other deaths with opioids marked as present in the death record) that happened in the state of Louisiana. Louisiana residents and non-residents are included in this number. Opioid-involved deaths include opioid poisonings, and also other deaths that are not marked as drug poisonings but where coroners determined that opioids contributed to the death.

Opioid*-related deaths occurring in Louisiana – Louisiana, 2012-2017



Source: Louisiana Vital Records Database

The number of opioid-related deaths were 150% times higher in 2017 than they were in 2012.

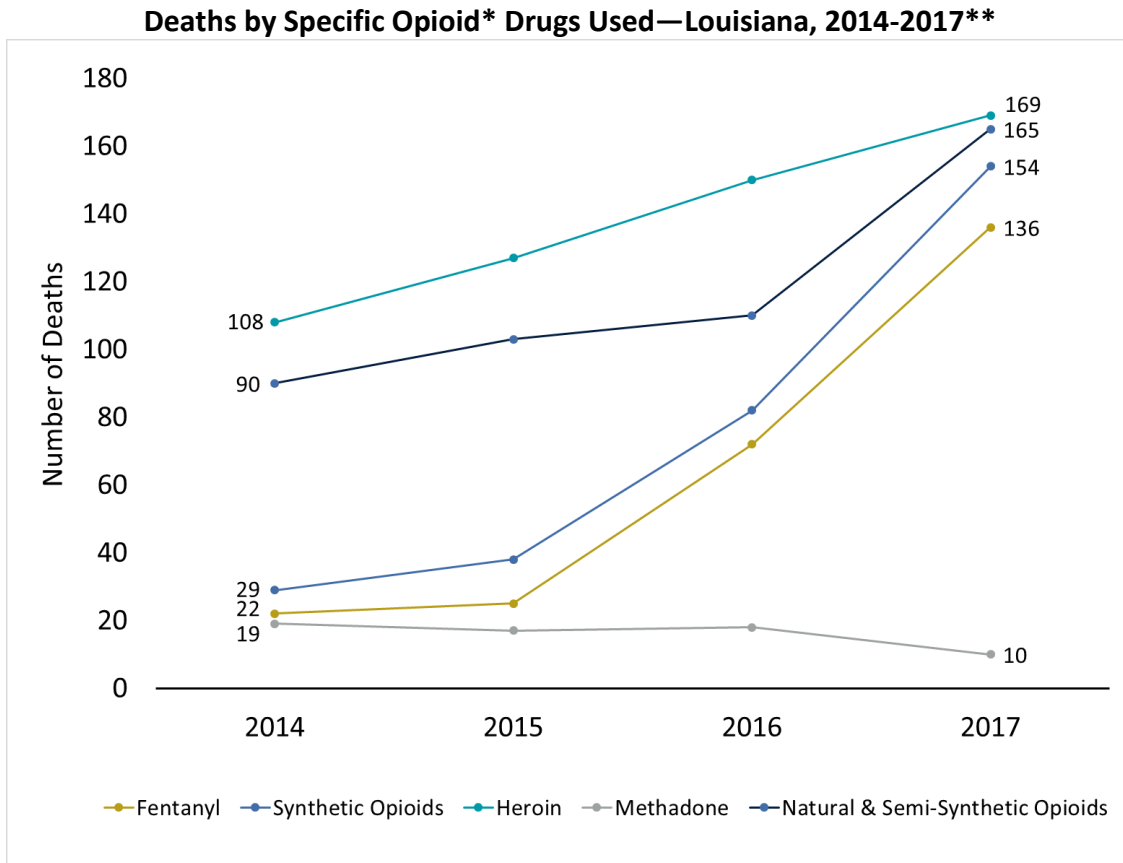
As mentioned previously, accurately counting the number of deaths with opioids present is challenging. Because parish coroners operate independently from one another, there can be a variations in the way deaths are classified across parishes. For example, one death may be classified as a fentanyl overdose in one parish, but a similar death may be classified as “anoxic brain injury secondary to fentanyl.” Only the deaths that specifically mention opioids in the death certificate are factored into the “opioids present” category shown in this factsheet.

Another challenge is deaths where multiple drugs were found in the decedent’s system. These are classified as “multi-drug toxicity,” “poly drug overdose,” “multiple drug overdose,” etc. It is challenging to classify these deaths, because it can be difficult to determine which drug was the deciding factor. Some cases have toxicology results that reveal many different drugs that all exceed the therapeutic range, and others have only a couple of drugs present within the therapeutic range, but which were deadly in combination, like opioids and benzodiazepines. The Louisiana Opioid Surveillance Initiative intends to identify which of the unspecified or multi-drug deaths were opioid-related, but not specifically marked as such in the death record.

*ICD-10 codes for opioids: Heroin (T40.1); Opioid Analgesic (T40.2 – T40.4)

**2014, 2016, & 2017 data are preliminary

The graph below shows the trends of deaths involving several types of opioids (including heroin, fentanyl, and methadone). There are few methadone deaths, and these have decreased since 2014. Deaths involving heroin show a steady increase, but deaths involving synthetic opioids (including fentanyl) have rapidly increased. Deaths involving fentanyl have increased by more than 500% since 2014.



Source: Louisiana Vital Records Database

*ICD-10 codes for opioids: Heroin (T40.1); Opioid Analgesic (T40.2 – T40.4)

**2014, 2016, & 2017 data are preliminary

The following table lists the number of deaths that occurred in each parish for each year from 2013 to 2017. A value of “<5” indicates between 1 and 4 opioid-related deaths in that parish for that year. Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect the confidentiality of the records. Unlisted counties had no deaths in the past 5 years of available data.

Number of Deaths With Opioids* Present by Parish of Occurrence, Louisiana					
Parish	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Louisiana	238	217	260	320	401
Acadia	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	0
Allen	0	0	< 5	0	0
Ascension	< 5	7	5	9	7
Assumption	< 5	0	< 5	< 5	<5
Avoyelles	0	< 5	0	0	<5
Bienville	0	< 5	0	0	<5
Bossier	5	< 5	6	< 5	5
Caddo	< 5	< 5	9	6	10
Caldwell	< 5	< 5	0	< 5	0
Claiborne	0	0	0	0	<5
Concordia	0	0	0	0	0
Desoto	0	0	0	< 5	<5
E Baton Rouge	36	31	16	27	22
E Carroll	0	0	0	0	<5
Evangeline	0	< 5	< 5	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	< 5	<5
Grant	< 5	< 5	0	< 5	0
Iberia	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	<5
Jackson	0	< 5	< 5	0	0
Jefferson	59	62	88	91	142
Lafayette	< 5	< 5	< 5	10	9
Lafourche	0	0	< 5	< 5	<5
LaSalle	0	0	0	0	<5
Lincoln	< 5	< 5	0	0	0
Livingston	< 5	< 5	< 5	13	13
Morehouse	0	< 5	0	< 5	0
Natchitoches	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	<5
Orleans	42	20	20	35	35

Number of Deaths With Opioids* Present by Parish of Occurrence, Louisiana					
Parish	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Louisiana	238	217	260	320	401
Ouachita	< 5	< 5	7	9	8
Plaquemines	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	<5
Pointe Coupee	0	0	< 5	< 5	<5
Rapides	< 5	< 5	5	13	11
Red River	< 5	0	0	0	0
Richland	0	0	< 5	< 5	0
Sabine	< 5	0	0	0	0
St Bernard	< 5	0	0	< 5	<5
St Charles	< 5	< 5	5	< 5	<5
St Helena	0	0	< 5	< 5	0
St John	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	7
St Landry	< 5	0	< 5	< 5	<5
St Martin	0	0	< 5	0	<5
St Mary	< 5	0	< 5	0	0
St Tammany	50	49	44	53	68
Tangipahoa	0	< 5	< 5	< 5	<5
Tensas	0	0	< 5	0	0
Terrebonne	0	< 5	0	0	<5
Union	< 5	< 5	< 5	0	<5
Vermilion	0	0	0	< 5	<5
Vernon	< 5	< 5	0	0	<5
Washington	< 5	< 5	11	14	27
Webster	< 5	< 5	< 5	0	<5
W Baton Rouge	0	0	0	0	0
W Feliciana	0	0	< 5	0	0
Winn	0	0	< 5	0	0

Source: Louisiana Vital Records Database

*ICD-10 codes for opioids: Heroin (T40.1); Opioid Analgesic (T40.2 – T40.4)

**2013, 2014, 2016, & 2017 data are preliminary